CLAIMS

1. A method of treating hyperlipidemia in a patient, said method comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a somatostatin type-5 receptor agonist to said patient.

2. A method of claim 1, wherein said somatostatin type-5 receptor agonist has a Ki of less than 2 nM for the somatostatin type-5 receptor.

3. A method of treating hyperlipidemia in a patient, said method comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a somatostatin type-5 receptor selective agonist to said patient.

4. A method of claim 3, wherein said somatostatin type-5 receptor selective agonist has a Ki for the type-5 somatostatin receptor that is at least 10 times less than its Ki for the somatostatin type-2 receptor.

5. A method of claim 1, said method comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of H-Cys-Phe-Phe-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Phe-Cys-NH_2, where a disulfide bond exists between the free thiols of the two Cys residues, or H-D-Phe-Phe-Phe-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Phe-Thr-NH_2.

6. A method of lowering the amount of triacylglycerols, glycerol, or cholesterol in the blood of a patient, said method comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a somatostatin type-5 receptor agonist to said patient.

7. A method of lowering the amount of triacylglycerols, glycerol, or cholesterol in the blood

of a patient, said method comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a somatostatin type-5 receptor selective agonist to said patient.

8. A method of claim 6, wherein said method comprises lowering the amount of triacylglycerols in said patient.

9. A method of claim 8, wherein said somatostatin type-5 receptor agonist has a Ki of less than 2 nM for the somatostatin type-5 receptor.

10. A method of claim 7, wherein said method comprises lowering the amount of triacylglycerols in said patient.

11. A method of claim 10, wherein said somatostatin type-5 receptor selective agonist has a Ki for the type-5 somatostatin receptor that is at least 10 times less than its Ki for the somatostatin type-2 receptor.

12. A method of claim 8, said method comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of H-Cys-Phe-Phe-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Phe-Cys-NH_2, where a disulfide bond exists between the free thiols of the two Cys residues, or H-D-Phe-Phe-Phe-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Phe-Thr-NH_2.

13. A method of claim 6, wherein said method comprises lowering the amount of glycerol in said patient.

14. A method of claim 13, wherein said somatostatin type-5 receptor agonist has a Ki of less than 2 nM for the somatostatin type-5 receptor.

15. A method of claim 7, wherein said method comprises lowering the amount of glycerol in said patient.

16. A method of claim 15, wherein said somatostatin type-5 receptor selective agonist has a Ki for the type-5 somatostatin receptor that is at least 10 times less than its Ki for the somatostatin type-2 receptor.

17. A method of claim 13, said method comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of H-Cys-Phe-Phe-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Phe-Cys-NH_2, where a disulfide bond exists between the free thiols of the two Cys residues, or H-D-Phe-Phe-Phe-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Phe-Thr-NH_2.

18. A method of claim 6, wherein said method comprises lowering the amount of cholesterol in said patient.

19. A method of claim 18, wherein said somatostatin type-5 receptor agonist has a Ki of less than 2 nM for the somatostatin type-5 receptor.

20. A method of claim 7, wherein said method comprises lowering the amount of total cholesterol or LDL cholesterol in said patient.

21. A method of claim 20, wherein said somatostatin type-5 receptor selective agonist has a Ki for the type-5 somatostatin receptor that is at least 10 times less than its Ki for the somatostatin type-2 receptor.

22. A method of claim 18, said method comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of H-Cys-Phe-Phe-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Phe-Cys-NH_2, where a disulfide

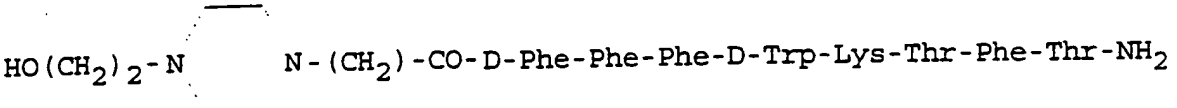
bond exists between the free thiols of the two Cys residues, or H-D-Phe-Phe-Phe-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Phe-Thr-NH_2.

23. A method according to claim 1 wherein the somatostatin type-5 receptor agonist is

H-Cys-Phe-Phe-D-Trp-Lys-Ser-Phe-Cys-NH_2 ,

H-Cys-Phe-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Phe-Cys-NH_2 ,

H-Cys-Phe-Tyr(I)-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Phe-Cys-NH_2 ,



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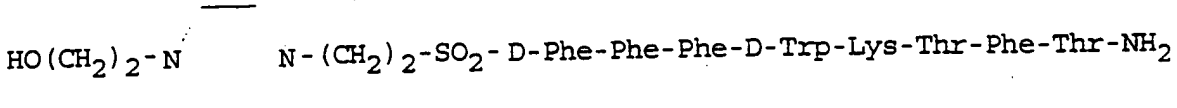
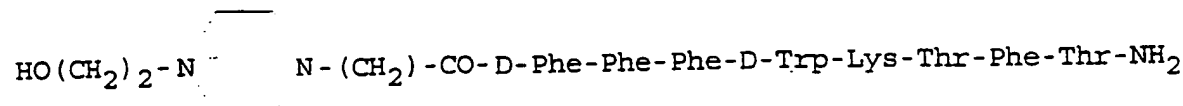


24. A method according to claim 8 wherein the somatostatin type-5 receptor agonist is

H-Cys-Phe-Phe-D-Trp-Lys-Ser-Phe-Cys-NH_2 ,

H-Cys-Phe-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Phe-Cys-NH_2 ,

H-Cys-Phe-Tyr(I)-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Phe-Cys-NH_2 ,



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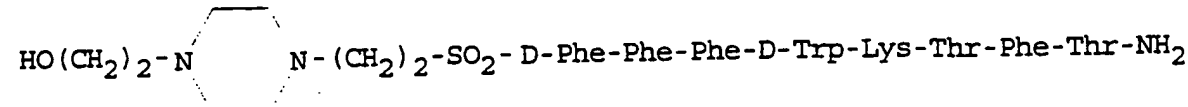
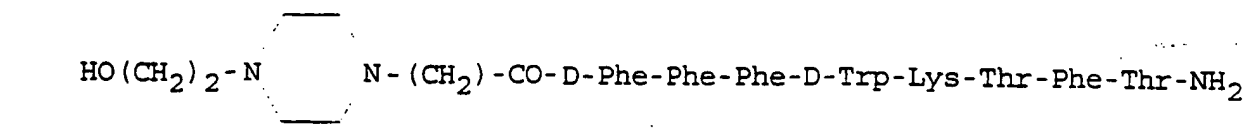


25. A method according to claim 13 wherein the somatostatin type-5 receptor agonist is

H-Cys-Phe-Phe-D-Trp-Lys-Ser-Phe-Cys-NH_2 ,

H-Cys-Phe-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Phe-Cys-NH_2 ,

H-Cys-Phe-Tyr(I)-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Phe-Cys-NH_2 ,



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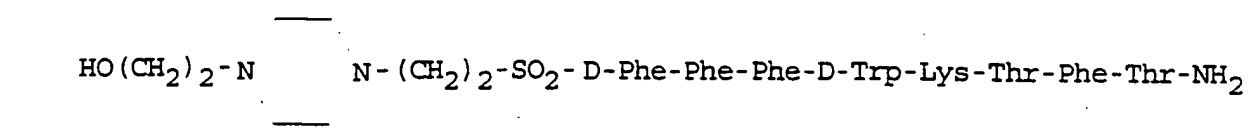

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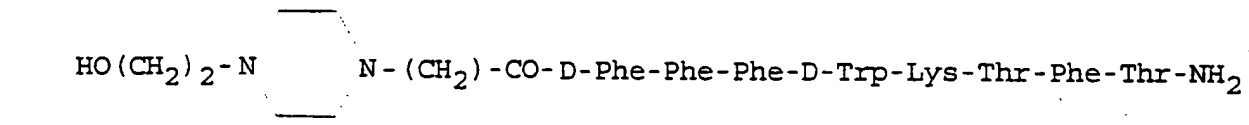
26. A method according to claim 18 wherein the somatostatin type-5 receptor agonist is

H-Cys-Phe-Phe-D-Trp-Lys-Ser-Phe-Cys-NH_2 ,

H-Cys-Phe-Tyr-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Phe-Cys-NH_2 ,

H-Cys-Phe-Tyr(I)-D-Trp-Lys-Thr-Phe-Cys-NH_2 ,



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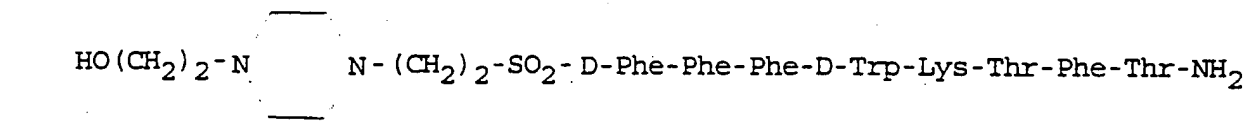

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27. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a somatostatin type-5 receptor, optionally selective, agonist.

28. A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 27, said agonist having the features identified in any one of claims 2, 4, 5 and 23 to 26.

29. Use of a somatostatin type-5 receptor, optinally selective, agonist in the formulation of a pharmaceutical composition for use in treating hyperlipidemia, or reducing the amount of

tracylglycerols, glycerol, or cholesterol in a human or mammalian animal.

30. Use of a somatostatin agonist according to claim 29, wherein said somatostatin agonist has the relevant features identified in any one of claims 2, 4, 5 and 23 to 26.

31. A pharmaceutical composition substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the Examples.